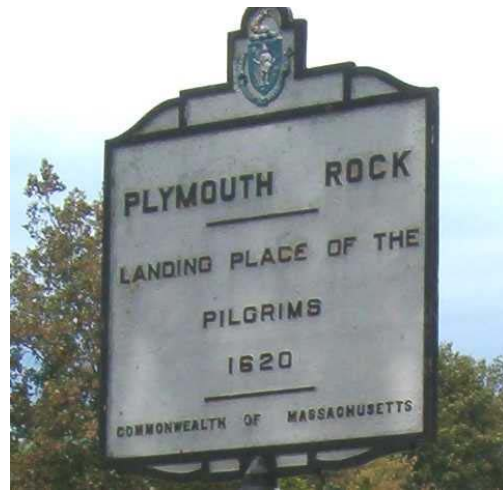


#643 The Cotton Saints vs. the Linen Saints – Theophilus Cotton and the American Revolution: Head of the Plymouth Militia

Plymouth Colony annexed to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. When Increase Mather and William Phips returned from England to Boston on May 14, 1692, with the new ‘theocracy toward democracy’ charter for the Massachusetts Bay Colony, it contained the provision that incorporated the Plymouth Colony into the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The colonies were united.

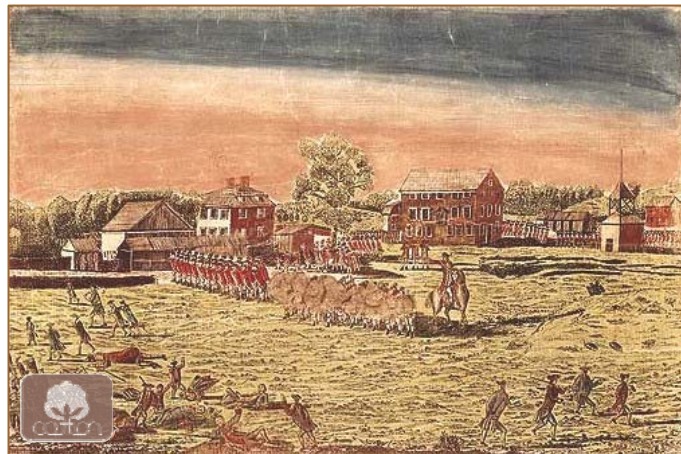
Theophilus Cotton. While John Cotton and the Mathers, including Cotton Mather, had been a part of the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony, Theophilus Cotton would be a part of Plymouth that was now annexed to Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was the grandson of John Cotton, Jr., who was the son of John Cotton of Boston, Lincolnshire, England, who had sailed to Boston, Massachusetts Bay Colony, in 1633. Theophilus Cotton in turn also had a son named John Cotton.



Head of the Plymouth militia. When the Revolutionary War broke out at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, Theophilus Cotton was the head of the Plymouth militia. While his role does not seem to have been significant historically, the Lord meant for it to be enormously *symbolic*.

Key Understanding: *The Revolutionary War Cotton.* The fact that a member of the Cotton family headed the Plymouth militia at the start of the Revolutionary War highlights the theme that the Body of Americans – their birth attached to Plymouth Rock in 1620 – represented *sword-carrying Cotton Saints*. This is in contrast to *cross-carrying Linen Saints*, who reflect ruling and reigning with the Lord *after* the return of Jesus Christ.

The Lord ordained the substitution of *cotton* for *linen* to further reveal the Body of Americans as a *counterfeit* of the Body of Christ.



The Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775
Blue coated militiamen in the foreground flee, running from the volley of gunshots from the red coated British Army line in the background.

Here are two paragraphs from a website about Duxbury, Massachusetts, that briefly describe the role of Theophilus Cotton:

On April 19, 1775, news of the battles at Concord and Lexington quickly spread throughout New England. Colonial militia companies which had been drilling for months in anticipation of a crisis rapidly gathered in Plymouth. Under the command of Colonel Theophilus Cotton, the colonial regiment, consisting of volunteers from Plymouth, Kingston, and Duxbury, headed for Marshfield to engage the British. The colonial officers held a council of war at the home of Lt. Col. Briggs Alden in Duxbury.

Nearly two days slipped by before they could agree on any action. The Americans outnumbered the British company six to one. Still, Colonel Cotton hesitated to attack – perhaps a prudent decision when faced with the gravity of outright rebellion. By 3 p.m. on April 21, British sloops had arrived off Brant Rock to take their soldiers to safety in Boston.



Early 1900s post card photo of the front of Col. Briggs Alden's house

Revelation 19:14-15 (KJV) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, CLOTHED IN FINE LINEN, WHITE AND CLEAN.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

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